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ECHO

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Bullseye!
A young family practices axe throwing at the Fall Festival on Oct. 5 at Abbey Gardens. More photos inside this edition. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

Thirty-five years of SIRCH

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

With sparklers on a glossy cake and shimmering balloons in the background, Gena Roberston, the executive director of SIRCH, officially celebrated 35 years of giving back to the community with SIRCH. "35 years ago, I was the only employee in a tiny little office building," she reminisced. "But it's really a team effort. It's a huge collective effort, and Haliburton County is one of the best places to make those connections."

In 1989, the Supportive Initiative for Residents in the County of Haliburton, now commonly known as SIRCH, became incorporated. Their first program was the Parent Support Services Program, designed to offer mental health services and support to parents with children up to 18 years old. "We had started with a social action committee in the area," said Robertson, "and that was about what was needed in the county. The mandate really has always been to look at where the gaps are."

Robertson noted that while it's important to face forward and look at the future of SIRCH, sometimes looking back serves an important purpose as well. "We brought in adult mental health services, community hospice, victim support

see SIRCH page 2

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SIRCH
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All of these thrifted items are for sale!
If you like what you see here, head over to Thrift Warehouse in Haliburton to find 8000 more square feet of thrifting fun!

Gena Robertson, the founder and executive director of SIRCH, cuts the cake to celebrate 35 years of SIRCH in the Haliburton Highlands on Oct. 1. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

SIRCH reflects on 'filling gaps' in county

from page 1

services, a lot of things," she said.

Many of these programs have since been divested to Haliburton Highlands Health Services, or other community partners to take the lead, leaving room for SIRCH to move onto the next gap that needs to be filled.

Some of their other programs include but are not limited to: a women's emergency house to escape domestic violence, pregnancy support programs, nutrition and food security initiatives, bereavement groups, and employment training to name a few.

One of the programs that Robertson is most proud of is the School's Cool program, which she describes as "leveling the playing field" for kids approaching school age. "If you enter kindergarten and you are significantly behind, it's been proven that your trajectory is always going to be behind," she noted.

The program is able to prepare kids - in both an academic and social manner - for their upcoming school experience, in just a matter of weeks.

The need for the program became apparent as kids continued to grow and thrive, and before long, SIRCH was offering training at schools not only across the local county, but across the country, to ensure that all kids had a fair chance at starting out.

Robertson came up with the idea for School's Cool from her own upbringing here in Haliburton County. She recalled that when she was young, growing up in a rural community without access to transportation could be isolating, making the transition to school even more difficult.

After calling Haliburton County home for many years, Robertson moved out west, where she was "bitten by the community development bug," she said. She settled in a series of small communities across the country, where she offered support services to the rural populations, before returning to Haliburton as an adult.

Upon her arrival back in the community, she took on a position with Children's Aid Services (CAS), and was the only worker for the organization in the county. "I always said I'd never stay at a job for longer than five years, though," she laughed, as she cut the cake celebrating 35 years with SIRCH.

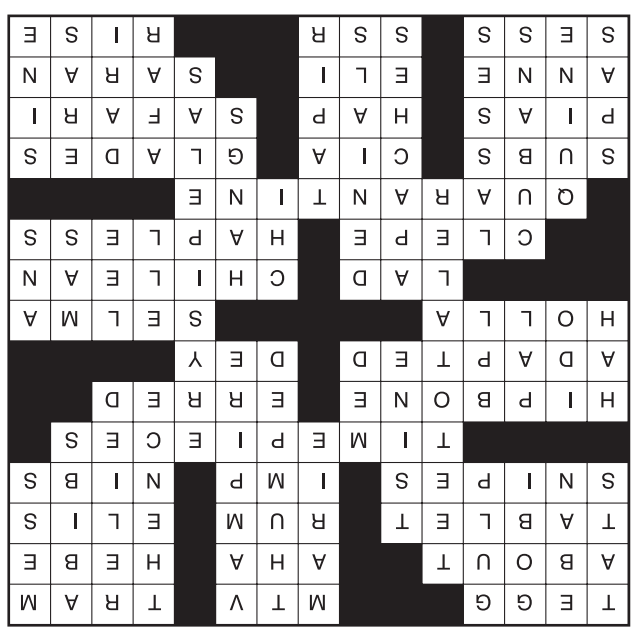
While Robertson started SIRCH in October 1989 and has been guiding the ship for years, she noted that there are many who make it run smoothly, Over the past 35 years, SIRCH has employed over 300 staff, and even more volunteers. "We don't do this by ourselves," said Robertson. "We always do this with partners. Donors, volunteers, local businesses, or other service clubs. It really speaks to the community we have here."

Over the past ten years, SIRCH has received 5.8 million worth of in-kind donations; including goods, services, time, and expertise. "This is an incredibly generous community,' said Robertson.

While community support and funding has been welcome, Robertson noted that there were many times over the years that SIRCH needed to get "innovative" when it came to raising funds. "Sometimes there was funding available, and sometimes there wasn't. That's when we got into social enterprise."

SIRCH works in collaboration with the Thrift Warehouse, located at Mallard Road in Haliburton. This booming business is well known to both locals and visitors alike, and has a steady stream of changing items that keeps interest piqued year-round. A portion of the proceeds from the warehouse are donated directly back to SIRCH and their programming. "When people shop at the Warehouse, it impacts us directly," said Robertson. "Every little bit helps."

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



On a journey towards Truth and Reconciliation

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

On Monday, Sept. 30, Larry O'Connor was invited by the Haliburton School of Art + Design to share his personal journey as an Indigenous person, and to discuss colonialism and the history of the residential schools.

"My parents, Terry and Dolores O'Connor, they raised the ten of us kids down in Oshawa away from our culture. So I have been on a journey to rediscover my culture because while I wasn't raised in my culture, I was born Annishinaabe-Odawa. My home community is Shesheg-waning and I am from Bear Clan," opened O'Connor.

At the beginning of the presentation, the dean of the Haliburton School of Art + Design, Xavier Massé gifted O'Connor with tobacco.

"Tobacco was given to me as a gift. The first gift that was given to us Annishinaabe was the asemaa, the tobacco, from the creator," said O'Connor.

"When you present me with a gift of tobacco, it is a contract between you and I for me to share my knowledge in a good way, said O'Connor. "I have been on this journey as Xavier had mentioned. On this journey I had a vision, a dream. The dream came not that long ago, it came after meeting this eagle. This eagle was in a cardboard box across the street from me at my neighbour's house. It was carved over 30 years ago, about 1990 and it stayed in that box for a long time and moved from province to province as my neighbour moved."

"I saw that eagle and I told her that that eagle belongs on an eagle staff. It is beautiful. You know, it has a spirit," said O'Connor.

His neighbour is over 88 years old and refused to give him the eagle until she had painted it. It took her the entire winter to paint it.

On one side of the eagle staff, it depicts the Grandfather Teachings.

"Eagle staffs have a life. They have to be birthed and they have to be birthed in a ceremony. This eagle staff was birthed in Michipicoten. Michipicoten is on the shores of Lake Superior, near Wawa. It was birthed there. The eagle staff itself came from Haliburton. It is maple. It is a little heavy for an eagle staff, but I wanted it to recognise our first foods when we come out of the winter, our long winters. When we were struggling, lacking from vitamins, the maple tree was the first thing that gives us this water. The water that is full of minerals and vitamins and sustained us."

The grandfather teachings depicted on the eagle staff were gifted to O'Connor from the children at Fenelon Falls Public School.

"Truth and reconciliation is a journey. It is a long journey. It is a teaching staff.

Larry O'Connor explains the eagle staff to an eager audience during his presentation at the Haliburton School of Art + Design on National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The nationally-recognized day of reflection falls on Sept. 30 each year, and represents a day to listen, to learn, and to reflect on Indigenous history and culture across the country.
/THOMAS SMITH Staff

Most staff are carried by veterans. All eagle staff are different."

Larry says that in moments of celebrations such as plentiful hunting seasons, that is when the eagle staff would be brought out.

"The eagle staffs have a spirit and I am so fortunate to be able to be an ogichidaa-a warrior, a carrier of this eagle staff."

"When I went looking for my history, I went looking and the first thing I found was my ancestors that served in the wars. More Indigenous men responded to that call for action during the First World War before Canada even responded to that call."

"The orange T-shirt that we wear today, that we recognize for Truth and Reconciliation. It represents not life sometimes, because so many lives were lost, but they are not to be forgotten. This here, really is a sign of remembering. Let's not forget. We need to remember those that went through the residential school systems. There is not an Indigenous person on Turtle Island that hasn't been impacted by the residential schools. Our ancestors, or family members went there, some came home, some didn't. When I went looking for my ancestors at Shingwuak, where the residential school was in Sault Ste. Marie through the archives, I found my great grandmother. I found one of my great aunties. Beside her name, some of the comments were 'they were wholly untaught,' 'didn't speak English'. Well we didn't, we spoke our own language. Melissa, the comment beside her was, 'she died.'

"I don't know if she died at school, leaving school, or not. But she died."

"They say the numbers can be as high as 69 per cent of people who went to residential schools, didn't survive. The graduation rate of children that went to the residential schools was about seven or eight per cent."

"If they spoke their language, they were punished," said O'Connor.

On the other side of the eagle staff, a red dress represents the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The 13 eagle feathers represent the 13 moons in the year. The bottom feather is turned up as a way of knowing that the Creator is there and will catch us, says O'Connor. The red on the banner of the eagle staff represents the bloodshed throughout history and through those that came to his ancestor's land. The white represents innocence. The banner is held by an antler of an elk, representing the nurturing that hooved animals provide. A medicine wheel is present, depicting all the different nations and races represented by the four different colours. The bear represents O'Connor's connection to Bear Clan.

"This eagle staff was created as a way to teach, to share," said O'Connor.

"Earlier this year on the news I had heard that they had found one of them in a landfill," said O'Connor.

"I was in the rotunda of the Manitoba legislature," said O'Connor. "I was there for a ceremony for the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and there were so many family members there. So many. They were looking for answers and they are not finding them."

"If it wasn't for the treaty, you folks would all be trespassing. But you're not trespassing because we knew that this land was plentiful, we knew that we can share, we knew that there is room for all of us here."

"Reconciliation. We need to act," said O'Connor.

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It’s fall, y’all

The annual Abbey Gardens Fall Festival was held on Oct. 5, and included tractor rides, games for kids, sweet treats, and some special visits to the pumpkin patch. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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points of view

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Fall Reflections by Tammy Nash

Editorial

Mind the gap

emily stonehouse

AS SIRCH community services celebrated 35 years, I had the opportunity to chat with the founder, Gena Robertson. She began to list - at length - the number of programs and initiatives the organization has been a part of over the past 35 years. There were more than I could write down, and significantly more than I could include in one article.

The overall theme of SIRCH, though, was to, as Robertson put it, "fill the gaps."

Sometimes those gaps are food security, sometimes they are support for domestic violence, sometimes they're winter jackets, sometimes it's kids programming.

There are many gaps here in Haliburton County, but because of organizations like SIRCH, we don't always see them.

It begged the question; why do these gaps exist in the first place? And how many people are falling through the cracks before social organizations swoop in to save the day?

It's no secret that rural communities often get overlooked when it comes to basic needs. When we're looking at the big picture, it's often that a lot of the funding and forefront exposure lands on larger urban centres.

Now this isn't to say that folks don't fall through the cracks there as well. But rural poverty is something that is so often hidden behind the curtain.

Over my years of writing, I've spoken to local food banks, women's shelters, charities, and somehow, they've always reported that the need is snowballing year over year over year.

While the colder weather may bring the promise of winter tourism on the horizon, many are scrambling to figure out heat sources for the months ahead.

We usually try to do a feature on the local Heat Bank every year around this time; to hear about upcoming initiatives and fundraisers.

This year, so far, they've truly been too busy to talk. Filling all those gaps that seem to span wider and wider each year.

If it weren't for organizations like SIRCH and the Heat Bank, what would we do?

Who is responsible for these gaps that seem to be getting bigger with each passing season?

Like many editorials, I'll use this as a reminder to take these concerns into consideration whenever voting time approaches. And no, not just at a federal level (yes, I see you all with your Trudeau flags trying to pin every alleged injustice on our pal Justin), but also at a provincial and municipal level.

There are a select few people in charge of where your tax dollars are landing; which gaps can be filled, and which holes dug deeper.

Beyond taxes, varying levels of government are also the ones who can light the fire underneath any relevant topic, and bring it to the forefront of conversation and awareness. Words always play a role in understanding the gaps.

A huge kudos to our local organizations that keep our community afloat, and work tirelessly to fill in the holes left by under-funding and budget cuts.

Not all heroes wear capes. Some carry a shovel; filling in the gaps for a safe and smooth road ahead for everyone.

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Our road

Underwater

Down

sharon lynch

JIM FELT as though he was from another planet. Here it was a golden autumn day full of sparkling light and splashes of colour outside his window. Blue Jays vied with squirrels at the feeder in the clear, bright air as chickadees waited their turn. But none of that seemed to have any impact on his mood. Instead he fought the urge to kick the door shut on all that glorious sunshine and crawl under the covers. But that would take more energy than he could muster at the moment.

Monika knew about these moods he fought now and then. It had been that way since they were kids on neighbouring properties. She'd walk across the fields to his place and cajole him into coming outside. If she was here right now she'd probably convince him to stroll over to the orchard and pick a couple of russet apples. Just a little tart with a nice firm texture and hint of sweet, they were the only apples he really liked. Nowadays he never saw them anywhere but on those ancient trees by the pond.

But Monika wasn't around today and so he had to figure out what to do for himself. Crawling under the covers was not an option. So he made himself a coffee and walked into the little room off the kitchen. He called it his escape den. Book shelves lined two walls and there was a ratty old couch that he figured to be the most comfortable piece of furniture in the house. And there was the aquarium.

Sitting down, Jim let out a long sigh and took stock of what was before him. The large tank hummed softly, as a tiny, lazy waterfall pumped air into the water. Plants and a miniature castle created a magical world for his tropical fish in which to weave in and around. Here was colour and movement that never ceased to capture his eye and lift his mood. He sipped his coffee and watched. Languid or frenzied, darting or motionless, he saw the aquarium's light gleaming off the tiny creatures.

Over the years Jim had come to notice quite a lot about his tropical fish. And for him, the aquarium was like a microcosm of human society. Calm and controlled at first glance, he knew from observation there was more going on there than first appeared. As he watched he saw the alliances, the wary, and the aggressors. Big fish chased smaller ones unless the little guys either banded together or were too quick for the big ones to get close. Besides staying together for protection, small fish hid in the watery castle or among the plants.

Sometimes a very fast and agile smaller fish seemed to pester one of the big ones, chasing it around the tank with amazing dexterity and persistence. Jim had watched as the bigger fish, appearing to be driven to the point of frustration, flicked its tail like a slap to ward off the pesky little guy.

Then there were the snails. One snail turned into many, many snails as they multiplied over and over again. When snails began attacking, killing and then eating a smaller fish Jim knew he had to take action. Drastic events called for drastic measures and a great number of snails ended up literally out the door.

Because while the aquarium could be calming and serene most of the time, there could also be other, more sinister forces at play. And Jim had to be on the lookout for these even while he enjoyed the beauty of this underwater world.

The phone interrupted his thoughts and it was Monika. She asked him what he'd been up to on this glorious fall day. At first he was hesitant to answer, then told her he'd been watching his fish. So she knew he'd been having one of his moods. At which point she confided that despite the perfect weather, she'd had a rough day. To keep busy, she had thrown together one of her apple pies. Baking was Monika's stress release. Would Jim be interested in some company bearing tasty treats? Now what could he say to that?

points of view

Owling at the moon

steve galea

Loon Tales

ABOUT THREE weeks ago, an old acquaintance of mine visited town, ostensibly to fish with me for a few days. But the truth is, he really showed up because his wife asked him to get rid of all his crow hunting paraphernalia.

And, as ashamed as I am to admit it, he thought of me as a worthy recipient.

I'm still not sure why. I am not what anyone would call a crow hunter. In fact, the last time I hunted them, was probably 20 years ago, with him. There were other hunters there too. But I suspect, when he asked if those guys needed crow hunting paraphernalia, they were all smart enough to say no.

I did not.

It's not that I plan on going crow hunting ever again. It's more that I like to be prepared for any eventuality. For instance, if one day, we decide, for some unknown reason, to grow a field of corn on our tiny front lawn, I'd like to have the gear I need to deter the crows that will very likely raid it – and frankly, the scarecrow costume I bought a couple of Hallowe'ens ago, isn't going to be enough.

So, I am now the proud owner of several used crow calls, at least 20 crow silhouette decoys, and an ancient, stuffed great-horned owl. In case you were wondering, crow hunters use a stuffed owl as a decoy to rile up and attract every crow in the neighbourhood – because who doesn't want that?

Crows, like my Jenn, are really put off by bad taxidermy.

Jenn might have even stronger feelings about the whole thing though.

Apparently, an ancient and battered, stuffed great-horned owl is not the kind of thing that you want to use as a decorative accent in any part of the house that is not the basement – no matter how nice you dress them up. Who knew?

Even worse, I am now dealing with a dog that might soon need to see a therapist.

You see the first time Rosie came down into the basement with me, she immediately froze when she noticed the owl on top of the bookshelf.

She then promptly let out a small bark at it and looked at me.

Her expression said something like, "I know this sounds crazy, but we have a Great-horned owl perched on top of the bookshelf."

I laughed and went back to work, while she spent the next 15 minutes alternating between looking at it and me – and wondering if she was seeing things. Now, when she comes downstairs with me, she acts as if it doesn't exist, but you can tell she remains unconvinced.

I would give that owl away, but this has turned out to be one of those odd gifts that a buddy gives you – the kind that they were loathe to part with and frequently ask about. And I think I might really offend him if I said I gave his prize stuffed owl away, because after all, it turned out I was the only one he thought he could trust with it – which, in crow hunting circles, is high praise indeed.

It's not like I didn't try though. When he first handed it to me, I casually suggested there must be someone else who might put it to better use.

My buddy just swivelled his head, opened his eyes wide, and said "Hoo? Hoo?"

pic *of the* past

This picture was taken in 1945 when the train was still running into Haliburton from Toronto. It shows my Mom and Dad (Edna & Harvey Tripp) and they were taking Edna Hennings (Legge) to catch the train to return to Toronto after spending the weekend with them in Eagle Lake. /FILE

letters to the editor

Feeding deer causing more harm than good

To the Editor,

I can't believe how selfish and ignorant Mr. Primavera is on the deer feeding bylaw. He says he'd like to focus on education and why the deer are here? They are here because people like him have been feeding them, it's that simple. I have lived on Halbiem Cres for 30 years. I used to have a vegetable garden, un-fenced, can you imagine? I also had lovely gardens and we only ever saw a deer, if we were lucky, while we walked in Glebe Park. Now we have to contend with them every day. They are eating vegetation that isn't natural to their diet, there is deer feces all over our yards, and there is high risk of deer/car collisions. He says he moved up from the city where it isn't normal to see them outside your front door. It isn't normal here either unless you are luring them with feed. I love seeing deer, in their natural habitat, not walking down the main street like I did last night, and luckily saw it before I hit it. Now our neighbourhood is on the watch for coyotes. They have been spotted by several people, my husband included, and we can hear them at night.

I encourage Council to stay the course. The argument that people can do what they want on their property is weak. There are many examples of this. You can't set off fireworks any old day, you can't make excessive noise after certain hours, you must adhere to property standards and zoning restrictions, and I could go on.

If Mr. Primavera and others who are still feeding deer truly care about these wild animals, they would understand they are changing the natural course of these beautiful creatures. Please stop your selfish and irresponsible feeding of the deer.

Andrea Roberts,
Haliburton, ON

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Ralph Torrie presents on urgent climate action

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, Ralph Torrie presented on energy systems for Environment Haliburton's Enviro-Cafe. Ralph Torrie is the Director of Research for Corporate Knights, a sustainable-economy media and research organization. Their quarterly magazine, Corporate Knights discusses climate change, responsible investing and the ideas, actions, and innovations needed to work towards a sustainable economy.

Torrie has a personal connection to Terry Moore, the vice president of Environment Haliburton.

"When I arrived at the University of Waterloo in the September in 1970, [Terry] was already a big guy on campus. He was already active in student politics, then I lost track of him for a number of decades and then he pops up, where else, but in the Haliburton Highlands." opened Torrie.

To begin Torrie's presentation, Torrie showed a map of the world from 1490.

"At that time, maps were treasures and were fiercely guarded by the people that owned them," said Torrie. "The reason I am putting this up here is to contrast with this map [from 1507]. America has started to reveal itself."

"17 years. I think it is very hard when you are under a big transition or a big change to appreciate just how quickly things can change," said Torrie. "When our understanding changes of where we really are in the grand scheme of things."

"We continue to broaden our understanding of where we are in the grand scheme of things physically."

Torrie discussed the Ptolemaic pathways of the planets that was expanded upon by

Capernicus' proposal of the planets revolving around the sun.

"A lot of this understanding has developed only recently. When our way of seeing things changes, a whole new way of seeing things opens up."

"What I'd like to know is what kind of economic activity could take place outside of the environment," asked Torrie when showing a diagram of sustainable development.

"Much of our understanding has moved from the earth being in the centre to the periphery," said Torrie.

So has our understanding of the phenomena of our environment and society, said Torrie.

"That simple change in thinking is enough to make one reconsider how we have to behave in order to make this sustainable."

Torrie described there being three 'house rules' for a sustainable planet Earth.

1. Everything goes somewhere. There is no such thing as waste.
2. Everything is connected.
3. Nature is an independent power and does not negotiate.

"Nothing comes close compared to what we have done since when the industrial society started," said Torrie.

When you deliver this large blow to a complex system, you cannot compare the patterns of carbon dioxide concentration,said Torrie.

The costs will be enormous, let alone the cost in human suffering,said Torrie.

Torrie offered some possible solutions to tackle the climate crisis.

"The way that I approach that question given the complexity of the system is to look for the principles of a sustainable energy system," said Torrie.

"You take a look at the way nature does this. If you are looking for an example of sustainability, that is the only game in town. Try and embed those designs and those ideas into human technology and then maybe you can conform to the three simple rules," said Torrie.

"There really isn't any waste in nature. One output for an organism is an input for another one."

Torrie also highlighted the importance of circular flow of materials, not emitting toxic or radioactive waste, resiliency of energy generation and to have safeties in place of a failure. Torrie also said that the method of energy production should not generate ecocidal risk and to reinforce cultural values such as equity access.

Torrie said that five things must happen for this transition including efficiency, the role of electricity expanding into transportation and heat, decarbonizing the electrical supply, a sustainable production of biofuels and the innovation of new technology to reduce fuel and electricity needed for human needs such as amenities.

"Even if we do all these things, we cannot be growing the same way that we have been growing," said Torrie.

"We are not getting out of this unless we address consumerism, ask the question when is enough, enough," said Torrie.

We need a gentler and ecologically less harmful way to get the things we need without the pressure of wanting more, more, more, said Torrie.

"We have had this relationship with fire that has been going on for a long time now, we have to move on."

Torrie described that in the future, if nothing is done, there are feedback loops that will start to accelerate and make everything unmanageable.

"We need to figure out what needs to be done, then do it. Not only do half of it," said Torrie.

"One of the things that make this a wicked problem is that there isn't just one solution."

"Generally speaking, the technology for this is now available. Technology at this point is not the reason we are being held back."

Torrie explained that the things you need to do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, almost always yield other benefits. The benefits of sustainable energy are almost always higher value to the people that emit greenhouse gas emissions, said Torrie.

Often, proposals are sent and presented to councils while labeled as an economic strategy, not a climate change strategy.

Buildings that are smart and efficient are healthier places to live and work and they are better assets to own, explained Torrie.

"It is these other benefits that are the key to 'selling' if you want to put it that way, to address the climate problem."

"Most of the buildings that are going to be standing in 2050 have already been built. They need heating systems that are going to be replaced and they need repairing," said Torrie. "We are at a point in our infrastructure situation where there is a round of reinvestment that is going to have to be done anyway and to make sure it is green."

Torrie says that Canada has a rich economy and capability for infrastructure. However, we have built this economy and power generation unrenewable energy sources such as the oil sands.

Torrie says that the cost of the technology has been dropping in cost faster than anything else we have seen. The solutions are growing at a much faster rate than the problem.

Torrie and his team estimate that the cost needed to allow for a sustainable, green energy based economy is around 120 to 145 billion dollars. Right now, there is 20 billion being invested.

"These floods and these fires and these droughts and these heat waves, they come at an enormous cost," said Torrie. "They will continue unless we can counteract it with some form of control."

Torrie also discussed the tariffs and restrictions of Chinese made electric vehicles being imported into Canada.

"Yes there are problems with Chinese supply chains but that would have been a big boon to combat climate change in Canada. Western car makers do not make an affordable electric car here."

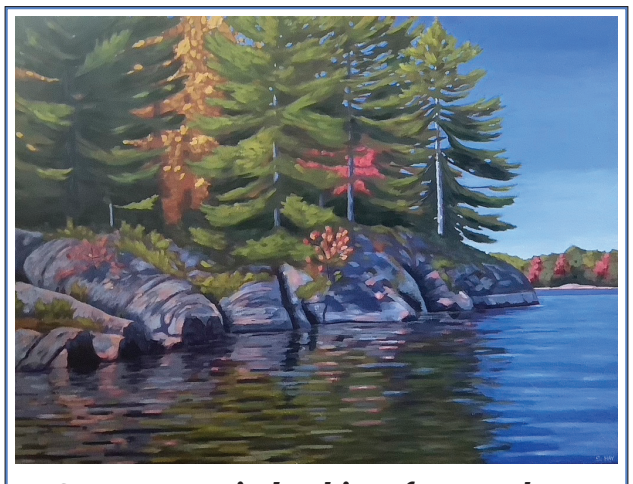
"Local governments are closest to the ground in making these systems change. They have an enormous influence over the level of greenhouse gas emissions in the community whether that be transportation, building permits, or land use," said Torrie."There is a long list of ways that local governments influence greenhouse gas solutions."

Torrie says that local government policy, bylaw, and planning is climate action planning. It is quite important to the transition towards the post-fossil period.

"Electricity growth peaked in 2005. For almost 20 years we have been on a downward slope in electricity use," said Torrie.

"There is a different way of seeing the future when you come to the climate change challenge. If you respond to it, improve the lens of the old paradigm, if you can make that transition towards thinking of an energy future that is designed and built to stay inside the planetary limits," said Torrie. "We are not going to Mars. This is it. This is our home."

"Nobody is coming to rescue us. We are just a tiny little speck in the grand scheme of things. I think that the environmental crisis really presents to us is a test of no other to humanity," said Torrie. "It is a human challenge. It is a human crisis, it is human in its origins. It is human in the sense that it presents a choice. If we choose a sustainable future, we can make it happen. There is nothing that permits this sustainable future to be possible except the limits of imagination."



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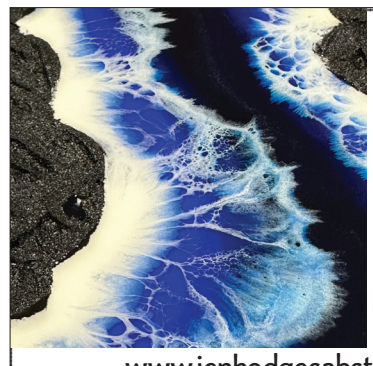

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HCDC AGM highlights community growth

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A meeting with some hellos and some goodbyes. Haliburton County Development Corporation's (HCDC) annual general meeting was held on Oct. 4 at the still shiny Link building off County Road 21.

Following a land acknowledgement, Warden Liz Danielsen kicked off the meeting, bringing greetings from county council members. "What you have done for our economy," said Danielsen, referencing the hard work of staff and board members of HCDC, "is something that should definitely be applauded."

To dive right into numbers, Tim Degeer of Dawson Gray provided news of a clean audit, and once again gave credit to Patti Tallman, the executive director of HCDC, and the team of staff who keep the numbers running smoothly.

Tallman, who was present via zoom due to COVID-19 exposure, presented on this past year's statistics, with 121 businesses assisted and in-depth counselling services offered, 90 referrals, and 309 jobs created/maintained through HCDC support. "Collaboration is key," said Tallman. "I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of the staff. I'm really blessed to have the best team."

Sara Joanu, the loans officer, followed Tallman for a progress report. She noted that over the past year, HCDC received 73 loan applications, where 53 were approved, 13 were withdrawn, and seven were declined.

Noting that the numbers are up to a year end of March 31, 2024, Joanu shared that the total dollars dispersed within the community were $6,559,589 at an average interest rate of 8.2 per cent, and a total value of investment portfolio landing at $22,536,548. "I am confident in our ability to make a positive difference in Haliburton County," she said.

The loans were split up by sector for those to see, with the service sector comprising the largest piece of the pie at 49.4 per cent. These services include restaurants, landscaping, hair salons, accounting, and auto repair.

Other loan sectors from HCDC include construction, making up 12.6 per cent of their portfolio, tourism at 13.1 per cent, manufacturing at 8.4 per cent, retail at 8.1 per cent, forestry at 5.8 per cent, and not for profits holding 2.6 per cent of the portfolio.

Out of the 73 loans from the past fiscal year, 44.1 per cent went into maintenance, 29.4 per cent into expansion, and 26.5 into start up costs.

The interest from the loans given out into the community is used to directly fund community economic development (CED) initiatives from HCDC, and Elisha Barlowe, the programs and operations coordinator for HCDC, dove into the many CED programs HCDC oversaw this past year.

Cory Abbs, Sara Joanu, and Elisha Barlowe presented long-standing HCDC director Barb Bolin with a gift following the AGM on Oct. 4. Bolin has not renewed another term on the HCDC board, and was reflective on her time with the organization. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

With $233,000 funds leveraged, the CED department of HCDC developed six strategic plans, involved 29 community partners, and recruited 79 volunteers.

Many have heard of the local initiatives program, or LIP, which, based on interest levels from community loans, had an impact of $174,973 this past year. This equated to 25 projects, 30 partners, $70,000 dispersed, $104,973 in leveraged funds, and $104,009 in-kind contributions.

While the numbers were delivered and the team applauded for another successful year, it was time to say goodbye to one of HCDC's longest serving directors.

Barb Bolin joined the corporation in 1995 as a member of the CED committee. "Her passion for community economic development has played a vital role in many of our achievements in the area," said Cory Abbs, the loan administrator for HCDC. Bolin has been the chair for both the CED committee, as well as the investment committee at different times, and worked tirelessly to provide funding and relief for countless local businesses. "Barb's unwavering dedication to both our community and the corporation will be remembered for years to come," said Abbs.

Bolin's role will be filled by Nancy Wright-Laking, which was approved by the board of directors at the meeting.

The AGM was closed off by Warden Liz Danielsen, who used her closing remarks as an opportunity to shed some light on recent developments from county council; namely, the recently adopted municipal accommodation tax (MAT). This tax is associated with short term rentals, and is split equally between the county and the lower tiers. The county uses their percentage for any upcoming tourism initiative, and each municipality can use their allocation as they see fit. "The bylaws have all been passed and are in place," said Danielsen.

The warden was asked whether the taxes will impact the overall tourism budget, to which she replied "that's not the plan," noting she sees the MAT as an opportunity to improve county tourism initiatives overall.

Considering the tax is a newly proposed regulation, Danielsen could not speak to the exact amount that would be received year over year.

Danielsen also used her time at the podium to skim the surface of the mighty conversation that is amalgamation, or, as Danielsen phrased it, "the A-word".

Amalgamation has been a hot topic for countless years; with a teetering back and forth between those for and against the amalgamation of upper and lower tier government models. In an attempt to gain some clarity, county council recently completed a service delivery review; a glimpse into which services lie where, and who holds the onus.

Danielsen reported that the review, which is available online for public viewing, was quite simply, too much. "We aren't all on the same page," she said. "It's overwhelming."

She believes that streamlining these services, for now, is too big a task to take on. "Right now, there are lakes that have different rules from one end to the other," she said. "We need to make sure everyone in the county knows the rules, and I think we can do that without the 'A-word'."

That being said, Danielsen confirmed that she is committed to continuing to have the conversations around amalgamation. "I will encourage open discussions and a willingness to all move in the same direction," she said.

Small business week coming up

Job and Volunteer Fair

Fleming Crew is hosting a Job and Volunteer Fair on Oct. 17 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion. If you are interested in recruiting for positions or have any questions, please email flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca

Mark Your Calendars

Haliburton County Small Business Week is Oct. 21 to 25.

Join the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce for three events during small business week. They will kick off the week with a free networking and social event at The Dominion Put on Oct. 21. Followed by an informative free session on Bookkeeping for Entrepreneurs at The Link on Oct. 23. We will then wrap up the week with the Annual Community and Business Achievement Awards and Gala at the Haliburton Legion. Tickets for the gala are $95 for Chamber Members and $110 for Non-Members. To purchase your tickets for the Gala, please email ed@haliburtonchamber.com or visit the Chamber website.

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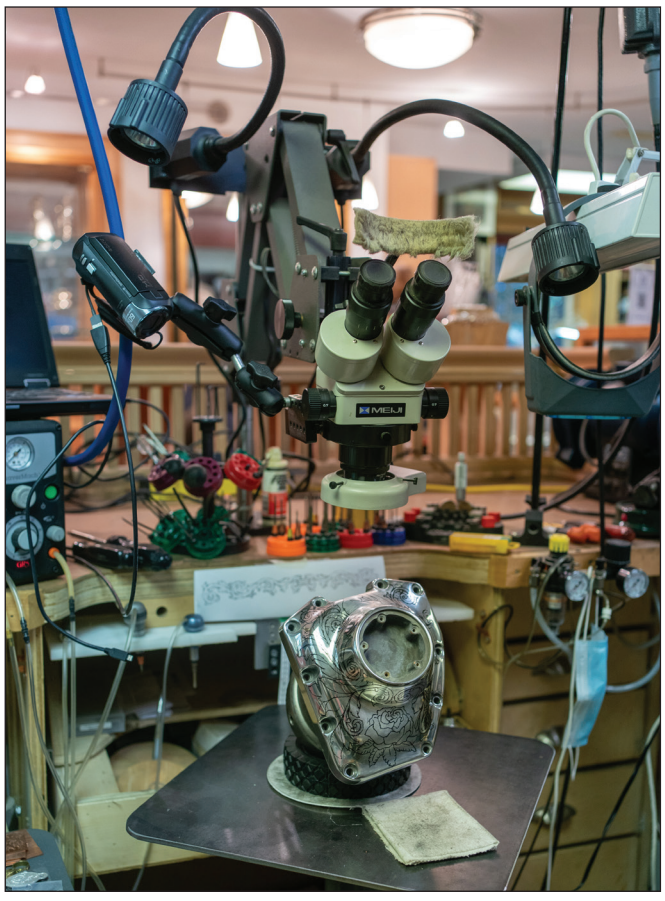
Art appreciation

Susan Watson Ellis and Todd Jeffrey Ellis of Paradigm Jewellery showcase their work for the Haliburton Studio Tour on Oct. 5. The Studio Tour continues over the Thanksgiving weekend across Haliburton County. /TIM YANO Staff photographer



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Lyn Lawrence and Terry Lawrence showcase their pottery and wood carving as a part of the Studio Tour. / TIM YANO Staff photographer

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Home is where the art is; fundraiser set to feature local artists

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The Ethel Curry painting that has been donated by Don and Sheila Popple for the upcoming Art Extravaganza. Despite being painted in 1932, the treeline of the highlands is still recognizable. /Submitted

It's an art auction with Haliburton written all over it.

Quite literally.

The Haliburton Highlands Arts Extravaganza is set for Oct. 19 at Sir Sam's Ski Chalet, and what started as a small idea has snowballed into an event featuring local artists, live music, auctions, and delicious food.

The fundraiser is designed to support the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, with proceeds going directly towards digital imaging equipment for the Haliburton Hospital. "We've noticed that everyone has been so supportive for the cause," said Chris Bishop, one of the organizers behind the event. "Local businesses have been very, very gracious with their donations."

Bishop was approached to assist in facilitating the event a few months ago, and he noted that while he had been to events like this in the past, he had never coordinated one himself.

This led to him trying to think outside the box, and come up with a unique approach to the event that would appeal to people of all ages.

And with that mind-set, he realized that the one thing both locals and visitors alike have in common, is a love for the Haliburton Highlands.

Bishop attended Humber College for photography, and in 1988, came up with the idea of making a coffee table book that would feature "the best of the best" of the Highlands.

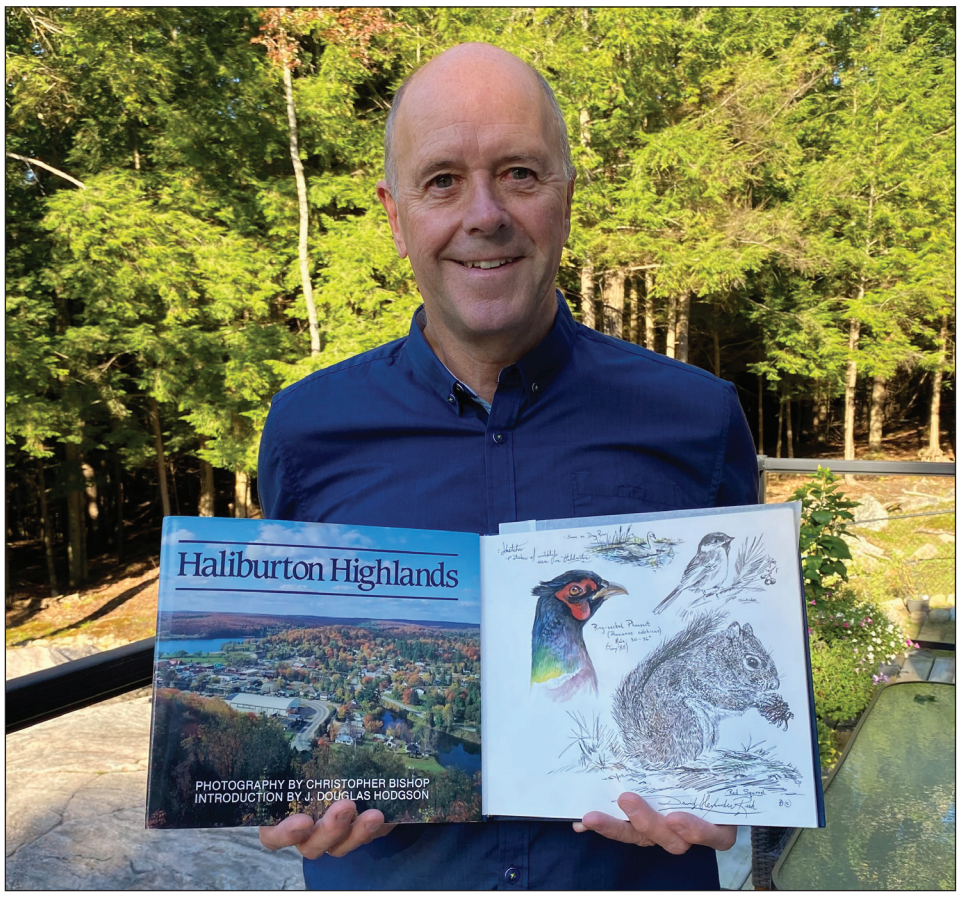
"The whole idea was to put Haliburton on the map," he said. "I really wanted to find a way to help represent Haliburton."

While he was gung ho about the idea, he soon realized that the books would cost a significant amount to print. This was when he called on the business community for support. "So many businesses chipped in," he shared, noting that the book was a success and quite popular upon printing. "So I wanted to do something to thank all the businesses that helped me out."

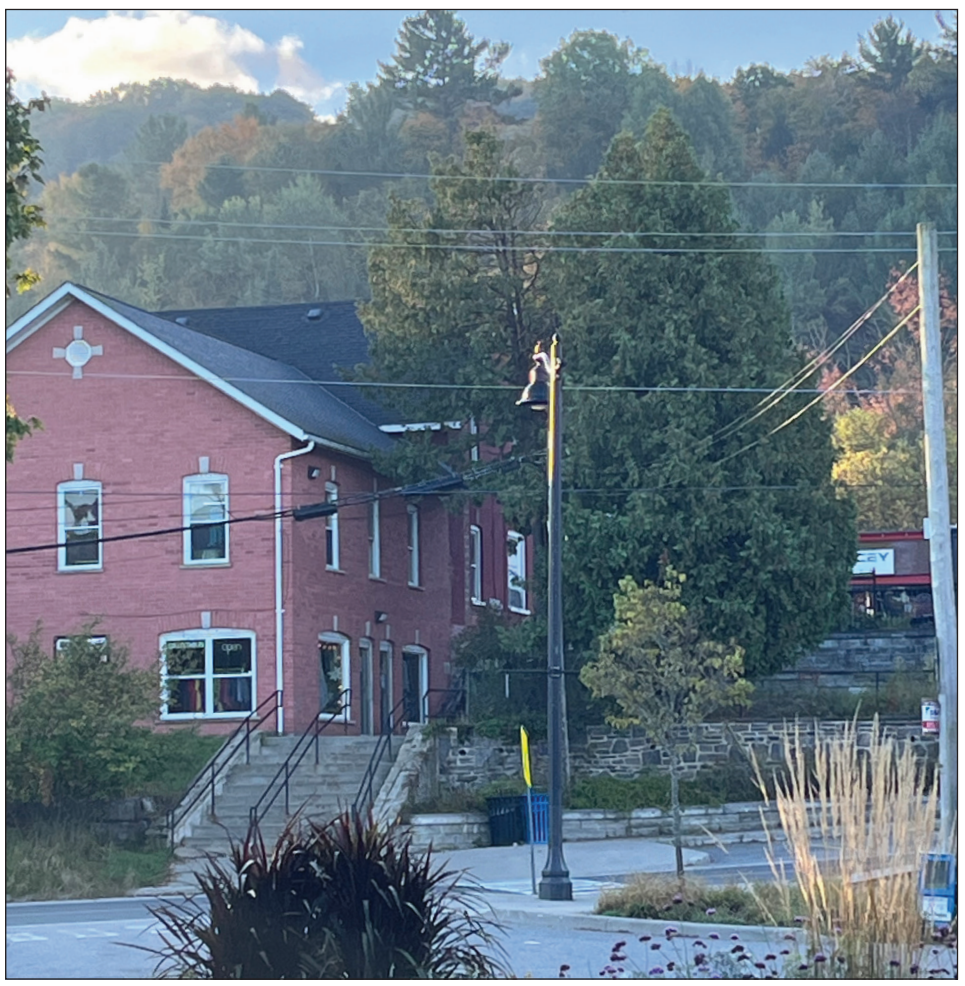
Bishop came up with the idea of gifting local businesses the Haliburton book, with custom wildlife study sketches etched into the front pages by local acclaimed artist David Alexander Risk.

While the book has been out for 36 years now, Bishop believed he could continue to build on the success and interest in local artists. This was how he came up with the idea of inviting ten new artists to fill the pages

see FUNDRAISER page 13



Chris Bishop holds his book from 1988 with original sketches from David Alexander Risk in the front. It was these sketches that inspired the idea behind the Art Extravaganza. /photo submitted



The current view of the Ethel Curry painting from 1932. The building captured in the original painting is still present. /photo by David Zilstra staff

Fundraiser set to help hospital

from page 12

of his book as a part of the fundraiser initiative.

With art at the forefront of the event, Bishop was also approached by Don and Sheila Popple, who were related to the well known artist Ethel Curry. The Popples graciously added to the cause by donating an original Ethel Curry painting, titled "Brick House on Highland Street," from the year 1932. The painting is a snapshot of life in downtown Haliburton, during a snowy winter day in the 1930s. It's not only a painting; it's a piece of history. The painting will be available via auction at the event, and via online auction leading up to the date.

Bishop noted that the fundraiser will be business casual, and all are welcome to attend to support the cause. Tickets are available online, and can be purchased by visiting www.hhhs.ca/foundation. The event runs on Oct. 19 from 6 until 9 p.m.

"It started as something very small and simple," Bishop said, "and it's really turned into a full arts extravaganza."

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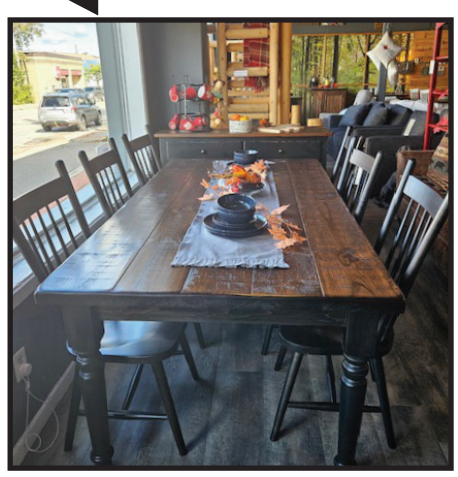

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Junior basketball

Haliburton Highlands Red Hawks faced off against Kenner this past week, with the juniors coming out on top with a score of 87-14 /TIM YANO Staff photographer

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Senior basketball

The senior Red Hawks also faced the Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute from Peterborough, but fell 52-18. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

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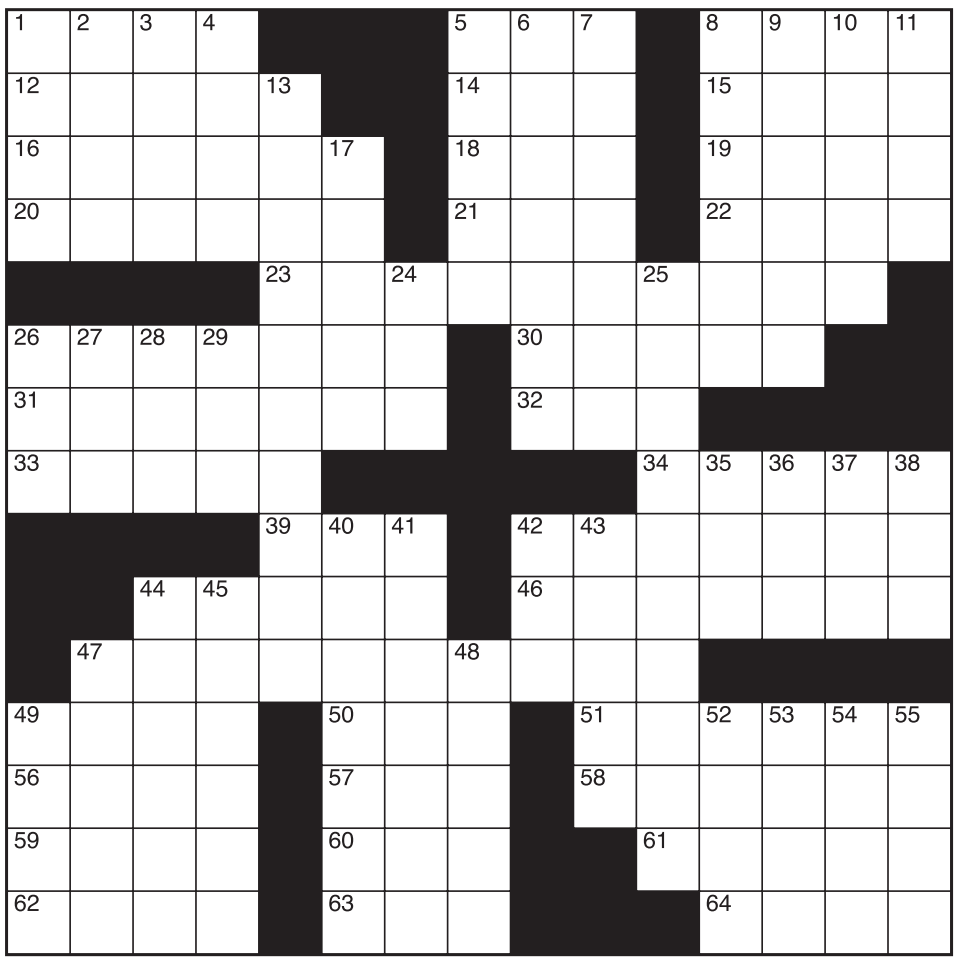

CLUES ACROSS
1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Exclamation
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. Popular type of device
18. Alcoholic beverage
19. Ancient Olympic Site
20. Sharpshoots
21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Measuring instruments
26. Midsection body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. "Partridge" actress Susan
33. Yell
34. Civil rights city in Alabama
39. Young boy
42. Type of sea bass
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Spy group
51. Florida is famous for them
56. Irritating individuals
57. Luck
58. Hunting expedition
59. WWII diarist Frank
60. Peyton's younger brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Type of overseas tax or levy
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN
1. Works of body art
2. Israeli politician Abba
3. Renowned desert
4. Eat greedily
5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
6. Beat
7. Bloodsucker
8. From a place already noted
9. Counted on
10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
11. Something one can make
13. One who abstains
17. Wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Bacterial infection of the skin
26. Expresses surprise
27. What engaged couples ultimately say
28. Crony
29. Where one begins (abbr.)
35. Architectural designation
36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Indigenous peoples
41. Deflections
42. Circulating life force
43. Executes with a rope
44. Natives of an island nation
45. Girls
47. Logician and philosopher
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian language
54. Amounts of time
55. Mathematical designation

Answers on page 3

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Irma Pasquino

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital surrounded by her family on Friday evening, September 27, 2024 in her 73rd year. Beloved wife and best friend of Don Pasquino for almost 57 years. Loving mother of Heather (Chris) and Carrie (Greg). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Morgan, Carson (Kala), Samantha (Thomas), Benjamin and by her great grandchildren Noah, Nathan and Amelia. Dear sister of Pearl, Vera and Nancy (Jim). Predeceased by brothers Max and Frank. Also lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews and by her best friend Barb. Irma was a hard worker, dedicated, fighter, survivor and more importantly a friend to all. She loved her family, friends and Bingo.

Celebration of Life

Friends and family are invited to visit with the family at the **HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS OUTDOORS ASSOCIATION FISH HATCHERY**, 6712 Gelert Road, Haliburton Saturday afternoon, October 12th from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. As an expression of sympathy donations to Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Support Centre (A Warm Hug From The Highlands) or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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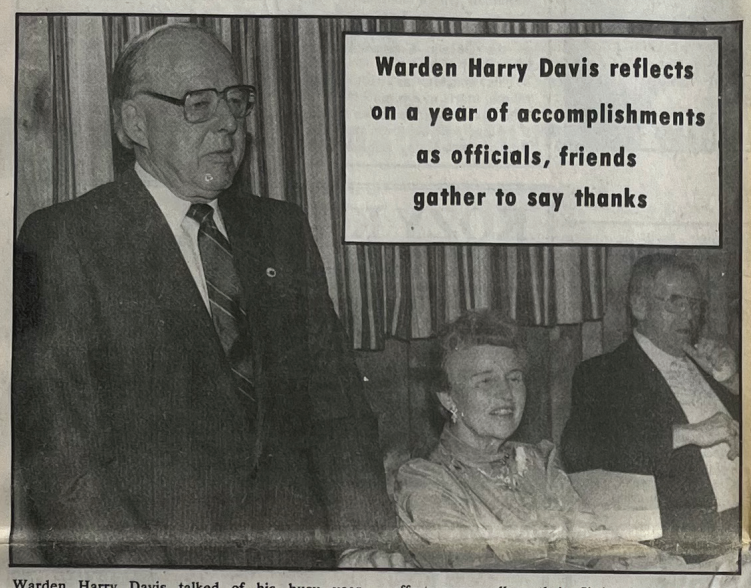
THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 105 No. 2 Wednesday, October 22, 1986 'Voice of the Highlands' 16 pages 40 cents



Warden Harry Davis reflects on a year of accomplishments as officials, friends gather to say thanks

Warden Harry Davis talked of his busy year attending meetings, officiating at functions and representing his county and while this meant being away from his wife Irene at nights, Davis said his efforts were well worth it. Sitting beside Davis at Saturdays Wardens Banquet was MPP John Eakins.

Warden looks back on a year of change

By MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

Even though he is a man renowned for his sense of humour and lighthearted replies, Warden Harry Davis found it difficult to keep the emotion out of his voice as he said goodbye to a year filled with many late nights and long hours, but many rewarding experiences as well.

"This is the time of year when every warden does a lot of soul searching and wonders whether any of their hopes and aspirations have been realized," Davis said to his 100 guests who gathered together Saturday evening to honour the man who has been the county's chief executive officer for the past year. "It's been a very busy year and I'm proud of the fact I've never missed a meeting. I want to publically thank county council members because without your hard work and support, this would not be possible."

That year of meetings included seven county council meetings, 32 special meetings, 48 committee meetings and 30 functions, such as the museum addition opening and the county fair.

It also saw the approval of a consolidated welfare system, a favourite goal of Davis' who said it would mean a more efficient, fair and professional service throughout all of Haliburton. County council unanimously approved a 20-bed chronic care unit for the Haliburton Hospital and Davis used this opportunity to announce the provincial government has decided to pay for two-thirds of the costs instead of the originally agreed to 50 percent funding. Davis pointed out this was particularly "encouraging news" since it would save the county $450,000.

The year saw many new faces at the county level. A new administrator at Hyland Crest and a new county librarian were hired after a nationwide appeal for interested candidates and Gary McKnight finished his first year as the county's new clerk-treasurer, a role he has filled admirably, Davis said.

"It's been a real pleasure to be your servant," the popular warden said, closing his speech with a quotation from a story called The Station, by Robert Hastings.

Tucked away in our mind is an idyllic vision in which we are travelling by passenger train, Davis read. We pass the high mountains and the flat plains throughout all the seasons, but uppermost in our minds is a certain destination.

We believe once we reach that station, our dreams will be fulfilled and the scattered parts of our lives will fit together with the clarity of a jig saw puzzle.

But once we reach that station, we find out "the true joy of life is the trip -- the station is just a dream." Once we reach the station we find out the stations ahead of us are endless. As you set goals for yourself (once I get my Mercedes I'll be happy....once I get my house in the country I'll be happy....once I see my children grow and prosper I'll be

Please turn to Page 3

Parents lose Victoria board battle

Parents who banded together to oppose a Victoria County Board of Education plan to close five small schools in the northern end of the county and build two new ones appear to have lost their battle. At a special meeting last Tuesday, the board voted in favour of proceeding with the new schools "as soon as financially feasible."

Those opposed to the idea of two larger schools to replace the five smaller ones used the familiar arguements about negative effects on the small communities, busing distances, costs and the quality of education available in small schools. Those who favoured the concept of two larger schools emphasized the need for better facilities and the educational and social benefits to the children.

The five schools that will be closed as early as August 30 next year are located in Kinmount, Burnt River, Coboconk, Norland and Kirkfield.

The board agreed that each of the schools should serve a different geographic area. One will be built in the Bexley-Eldon Township area, and would serve youngsters from Norland, Kirkfield and part of Coboconk. The other new school would be built in the Sommerville Township district to serve students from Kinmount, Burnt River and a portion of Coboconk. Both schools would have approximately 250 students.

While last Tuesday's decision paves the way for the new schools, details of funding remain to be worked out with the provincial government, and it is possible the five existing schools will continue to operate beyond the August 30, 1987 deadline for earliest possible closure.

Once the new schools are in operation, the five unused school buildings are expected to be offered to the municipalities in which they are located, for community use.

Although some people opposed to the board's edcision have vowed to keep protesting it, there is almost no chance that Tuesday's decision can be reversed, unless the necessary provincial assistance for the project is denied.

New loan aid scheme will boost tourism

By MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

Now is not the time to be complacent about Eastern Ontario's tourist attractions and instead, we should be building on our strengths and developing new opportunities, said the Minister of Tourism and Recreation as he announced a new tourism iniative -- Directions East.

Directions East is a set of seven programs designed to help small establishments upgrade and improve their facilities, especially those which cater to the needs of handicapped people. Even though the Haliburton Highlands is a member of the Central Ontario Tourism Association, the county lies in the eastern half of the province, enabling local tourist businesses to apply to the program.

The Capital Assistance Program is designed to help campgrounds, commercial ski resort operations, licenced commercial roofed accomodations and attractions. The two categories of the loan are interest and principal payment free for up to five years.

Eligible businesses can get funding for up to 50 percent of the project costs for renovations or $100,000, whichever is less while the second category is applicable for expansion costs of 50 percent funding or $150,000, whichever is less.

Because inland lakes, the Trent Severn Waterway and the Thousand Islands have been such popular vaction spots for many years, the Commercial Tourist Marina project will help waterfront facilities undergo renovations, improve transient dockage and upgrade on-shore service facilities.

Please turn to Page 3

Child Identification programme:

Civitan club photographs and fingerprints 139 local youngsters

By MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

There was a better response than expected last Saturday when dozens of parents brought their children to the Haliburton Legion to have their photographs and fingerprints taken at the Child Identification Program.

"The parents were really in favour of this program and very appreciative of it," said Gerald Irish on Monday. There were 15 children getting their record sheets updated from the time the clinic was first held in Haliburton two years ago and 139 new children.

The program is sponsored by the Civitan Club of Newmarket, a community-minded group who believe they should pay their "civic rent" by donating some of their time and talents for the betterment of their community. The club started the program three and a half years ago when a young Queensville girl, Christine Jessup, disappeared from her home.

"At the time (a child disappears or is lost), the parent is not thinking coherently" and may have problems giving a precise description to the police, explains Civitan Brian Tegwell. His group decided to do something to help and contacted the police to ask what sort of information they would need if indeed a child did go missing.

When a child arrives at a clinic, his or her picture is taken with a black and while instant camera. Then the child is taken to a fingerprinting station where prints of each finger and the palm are taken. Getting the ink off dirty fingers is the next step before the child receives a sucker and colouring book full of the rules of what to do in scary situations, and safety procedures. The parent is given a form to fill out with such information such as height and weight, eye colour and birth date.

The information sheet is kept by the parents and no other copy is sent to anyone, including the police. Some parents think the fingerprints can be used for future reference but this is not the case.

Because a child's looks change, but not their fingerprints, parents are asked to attend a clinic every two years to get the picture updated. The cost is covered by the Civitan Club, with the parents asked to pay a dollar and the Legion providing the space and preliminary work.

"We hope it's a person's worst investment and they never have to use it," says Tegwell, a feeling shared by each and every person who attended the clinic.

Five-year-old Andrew Burtch gets his mug shot taken by a Newmarket Civitan Club member as his mother Valerie holds Erin who is next in line. The Legion and Civitan Club sponsored the Child Identification program on Saturday to help parents record information on their children.

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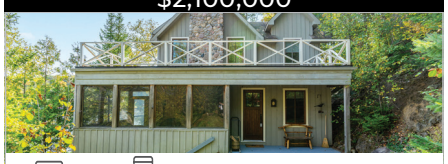

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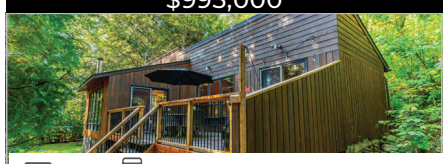

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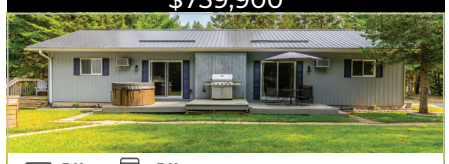

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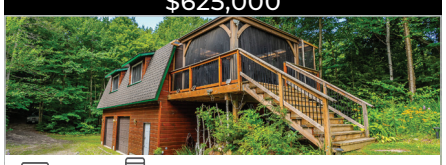

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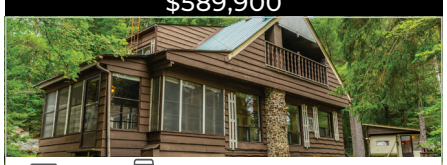

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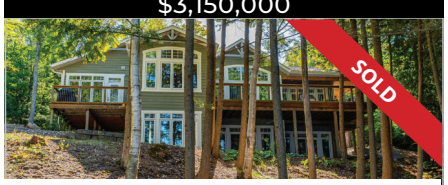

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LITTLE KENNISIS LAKE
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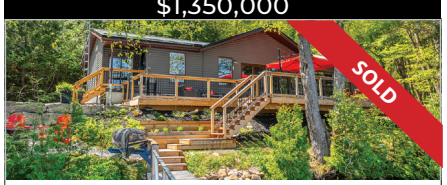

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